REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is requiring restriction to one of the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1-18, 40-44, 47-50, 56-60, 67-70, 72-75, and 77-80, drawn to an alumina coated base member;

Group II: Claims 19, 29-39, 45-46, 51-55, 71, 76, and 81, drawn to a clad member;

Group III: Claims 20-27 and 82, drawn to a laminate;

Group IV: Claims 28 and 83, drawn to a tool; and

Group V: Claims 61-66, drawn to an apparatus.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, Claims 1-18, 40-44, 47-50, 56-60, 67-70, 72-75 and 77-80, drawn to an alumina coated base member, with traverse on the grounds that no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctiveness between the identified groups. Also, it has not been shown that a burden exists in searching the claims of the five groups.

Moreover, the M.P.E.P. at § 803 states as follows:

> "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions."

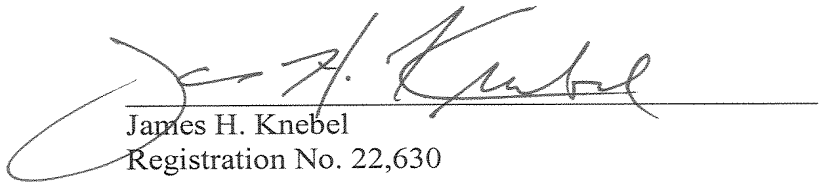
Applicants respectfully submit that a search of all of the claims would not impose a serious burden on the Office.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Restriction Requirement. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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